

What is claimed is:

1. A copper smelting process comprising the steps of:
providing a blister copper-producing means, a plurality of
anode furnaces and blister copper launder means for connecting
said blister copper-producing means and said anode furnaces;
producing blister copper in said blister copper-producing
means;

subsequently causing said blister copper produced in said
blister copper-producing means to flow through said blister
copper launder means into one of said anode furnaces; and

refining said blister copper into copper of higher quality
in said anode furnace.

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2. The process as recited in claim ¹, wherein said refining
step includes the steps of:

receiving the blister copper ~~tapping~~ through said blister
copper launder means in said anode furnace;

oxidizing the blister copper in said anode furnace by
blowing oxidizing gas into said anode furnace;

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subsequently reducing the oxidized copper in said anode
furnace into the copper of higher ^{purity} ~~quality~~; and

subsequently discharging said copper of higher quality
from said anode furnace; and

wherein said blister copper receiving step and said oxidiz-
ing step are carried out at least partly in an overlapping fash-
ion.

3. The process as recited in claim 2, wherein said anode

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furnace includes a furnace body supported rotatably about an axis thereof with said axis being arranged horizontally, said furnace body including a tuyere opening thereinto, and wherein said oxidizing step includes blowing said oxidizing gas into said anode furnace while adjusting a depth of said tuyere from a melt surface in said anode furnace by rotating said furnace body.

4. The process as recited in claim 2, wherein said oxidizing gas is composed of oxygen-enriched air.

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